



24 Hour Confidential Crisis Intervention • Information & Referral

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P.O. Box 107 • Terre Haute, Indiana 47801 • 812/238-2620

August 7, 1995

Jack Lawson  
WBOW/WZZQ  
P.O. Box 35  
Terre Haute, IN 47808

Dear Mr. Lawson,

Thanks so much for getting the word out about Laughlines for Lifeline. The fundraiser was very successful. We're sure many people heard about the event, thanks to you.

The proceeds will help Lifeline continue to provide an important service to the Wabash Valley. Our listeners help people who are facing a crisis or maybe someone who is having trouble meeting their basic needs.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

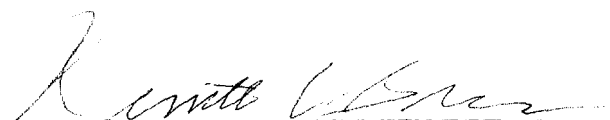
Bill Aubin & David Land  
Co-Chairs, Laughlines for Lifeline

DECLARATION OF KENNETH BROWN

I, Kenneth Brown, hereby declare:

1. I have reviewed the foregoing Exhibit entitled, "Direct Testimony of Kenneth Brown."
2. The statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on March 4, 1996

  
Kenneth Brown

Contemporary Exhibit 5

CHARACTER REFERENCES

Case No.      Official Exhibit  
95-154      Contemp #5

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Disposition:    Identified ☒  
Rejected ☐    Received ☒

IN THE MATTER OF:

4-2-96      Sube f

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Date:      Witness:      Reporter:

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No. Pages:

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DECLARATION OF JAMES ANDREW BUTLER

I, James Andrew Butler, hereby declare:

1. I am currently employed with Public Broadcasting Service, Alexandria, Virginia, as a Communications Systems Engineer.

2. I wrote the attached letter dated August 12, 1994 to Judge Jack O. Edwards, Associate Circuit Judge, 25th Judicial Circuit, Vienna, Missouri, in connection with Michael Rice's criminal case.

3. The statements contained in the letter in support of Mr. Rice's character were true and correct when written and remain true today.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on March 26, 1996

  
James Andrew Butler

James A. (Andy) Butler  
1126 North 26th Street  
Quincy, IL 62301-2271

Honorable Jack O. Edwards  
Associate Circuit Judge  
25th Judicial Circuit  
P.O. Box 140  
Vienna, Missouri 65582

Your Honor:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Michael Rice, a long time friend and professional colleague. Since I have not been in the midwest for some time, I am not familiar with the case you are considering but I have known Mike Rice for many years and hope my observations may help in your deliberations.

I have actually been aware of Mike Rice since High School. There is a reason that I use the word aware to describe the early portion of our relationship. Mike and I both graduated from Webster Groves High School but since he is several years older than I, we never met during our high school days. I came to know Mike instead by reputation. While attending high school I was active in the Audio-Visual Club and the Drama Stage Crew. The AV Club provided equipment and operators for classroom instructional support while the stage crew handled lights and audio for school events. As I became familiar with the equipment for both activities, people would mention former students who had done particularly clever or well conceived installations. I heard Mike's name a lot. This awareness was enhanced during my junior and senior year when I learned through friends in the business that Mike was involved with KIRL radio, my favorite station. Knowing that someone who had done the same things I was doing just a few year earlier was responsible for something as great as KIRL (playing more music per hour than any other station in Missouri) was a powerful motivation as I considered what to do with my life.

I actually met Mike Rice several years later. In order to pay my way through the University of Missouri-Rolla I started working as a disc jockey at local radio stations. After a brief stint at KCLU in 1968 I had landed a full-time job at KTTR-KZNN, the primary station in the market. Shortly after I started at KTTR the owner decided to automate the stations. I worked with the equipment supplier and provided most of the local support to implement the changeover. One afternoon in 1971 I was working at the station when Mike Rice and his partner, Dave Scott walked in. They had been operating an automated station (KFMZ) in Columbia for about a year and were looking

**Honorable Jack O. Edwards**

**August 12, 1994**

**page 2**

improvement ideas. Someone had suggested that the Rolla stations might be a good source. I showed them through the facility and discussed my concepts of automated operation. Several weeks later Dave Scott called and offered me the position of Operations Manager at their Columbia station.

Working for Mike Rice in Columbia was one of the most exciting and challenging periods in my career. The radio station had been in operation a little over a year when I arrived but had failed to produce much impact on the market. Fortunately, Mike and Dave had made a commitment to use the resources of the successful operation in St. Charles to fuel the growth of the Columbia effort. I had some minimal knowledge of radio and was willing to work hard and learn. Mike was willing to teach and nurture in exchange for my efforts. During the next four years I worked at least 60 hours a week, 52 weeks a year to keep pace with Mike's vision. It was challenging but during that time I learned the skills and gained the experience that have allowed me to continue successfully in the broadcasting business since. I would not be a successful professional in the business today if Mike Rice had not unselfishly shared his knowledge when I really needed it.

After four very intense years at KFMZ I was burned out and ready for a change. After much soul searching I took a position at the University of Missouri so I could complete my masters degree at reduced tuition and begin a transition from Programming and Management to Engineering. Both aims were successful and I have held a series of increasingly responsible positions in the industry over the past two decades. A copy of my resume is attached for your reference. During that time I have kept in touch with Mike Rice, visiting his expanding operations from time to time, participating with him in industry conferences and watching him work on volunteer association committees to help improve broadcasting. I have found him to be a consistent source of information and inspiration. He has a keen understanding of the business of broadcasting and a strong commitment to "do it right". This knowledge and commitment have been a great benefit to the communities his stations serve and the larger community of the US Broadcasting industry. I continue to learn from him and be constantly challenged by his high standards.

I have also learned some personal lessons from Mike. He has a kind and gentle nature that is a great counter to my personal cynicism. His acceptance of people with their inherent strengths and weaknesses has been a good model for me. I hope someday that I will be as open and warm in my dealings with my family and others.

**Honorable Jack O. Edwards**  
**August 12, 1994**  
**page 3**

For all of the positives, being Mike's friend and employee does have it's negatives. This was most apparent during the times we worked together in Columbia. Mike was extremely unpredictable at times. He would become interested in a problem or project and nothing could distract him until it was done. There were times when he worked day and night for three or four days straight. It was like he had unlimited energy. At other times, he would be unavailable for days at a time. If you did manage to reach him during these times he seemed distracted and angry. While I was uncomfortable with these traits, I valued Mike's friendship and accepted them as part of his personality. It was several years after I left Columbia when my wife, who often exhibited similar behavior, was diagnosed as a chronic Manic/Depressive that I realized that Mike might be ill. At that point I was living in New York City and did not see Mike often enough to suggest treatment.

In addition to his unusual work habits, I was also concerned at times about Mike's personal life. He often seemed to be watching life from the outside without really being able to step in and enjoy it. He seemed very lonely yet never able to form a meaningful, long-term personal relationship. At times I noticed that his unpredictable use of alcohol severely reduced his effectiveness and caused him to make snap decisions that caused him considerable emotional pain or financial loss. Once again I failed to act on his behalf and I will always feel guilty for that oversight.

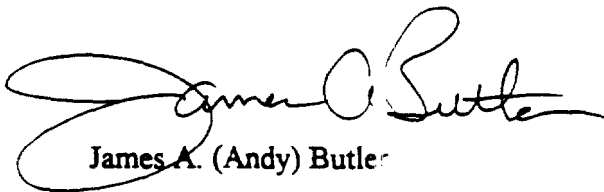
I am currently in the process of relocating from Washington, DC to Quincy, Illinois. One benefit of this change is the opportunity to renew a number of old acquaintances. Recently I was able to spend an evening with Mike Rice. This was an encouraging experience. At the time Mike was under tremendous pressure. His Mom who was terminally ill with cancer (she died within the last week) had just been moved to a 24 hour care facility and his father was hospitalized with a tumor and a broken hip. I was pleased and surprised to find Mike coping calmly with all of the pressures. During my relief I couldn't help thinking about how differently the Mike Rice I knew twenty year ago would have been acting. The change I saw was dramatic and highly encouraging.

This new Mike Rice is the man that your are considering today. I strongly believe that he is a highly worthwhile individual who has made and will continue to make significant positive contributions to the broadcasting industry, the communities his businesses serve and the people who are fortunate enough to work with him both in his operations and as his peers in the industry. Any action that would impede his ability to continue these activities would be a dis-service to society.

Honorable Jack O. Edwards  
August 12, 1994  
page 4

Thank you for taking time to consider my views during your deliberations. If I can be of further assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me. During the day you can reach me at 217-224-9600 ext. 340. During the evening you can call me at home at 217-223-0276. I hope I have been of some assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Butler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and end.

James A. (Andy) Butler

enclosure



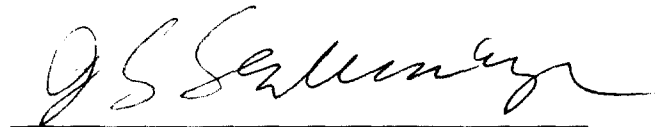
DECLARATION OF J. S. SELLMEYER

I, J. S. Sellmeyer, hereby declare:

1. I wrote the attached letter dated March 22, 1996 to Arthur J. Steinberg, Administrative Law Judge, Federal Communications Commission.

2. The statements contained in the letter are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on March 25, 1996

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J S Sellmeyer", is written over a horizontal line.

J. S. Sellmeyer

**SELLMEYER ENGINEERING**

P.O. BOX 356 • MCKINNEY, TEXAS 75069 • (214) 542-2056  
MEMBER AFCCE

March 22, 1996

Arthur J. Steinberg  
Administrative Law Judge  
Federal Communications Commission  
2000 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Dear Judge Steinberg:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Michael Rice, President of Contemporary Media. You are currently conducting a hearing on Mr. Rice's qualifications to remain a licensee of the Federal Communications Commission.

I have known Mr. Rice personally for more than twenty years and have undertaken several engineering projects for his company over the years. I have some comments on his character and my knowledge of the operations of some of his radio stations over the years.

In the late 1960s, Mr. Rice acquired a silent daytime AM station licensed to St. Charles, Missouri and placed it back in service. He spent a considerable effort determining how to best upgrade this station to serve the largest population possible within the allocation constraints. The station was very successful for a number of years under his operation. This success enabled him to construct the second commercial FM station in Columbia, Missouri.

He placed KFMZ in service in 1971 as a Class A facility. The FM market at the time was almost non-existent and it fell to the efforts of Mike Rice to work to convince retail businesses to advertise on FM stations and KFMZ in particular. In the intervening twenty five years the station has become a market leader, supporting many community activities. The station has since been upgraded to a Class C2 facility with a modern redundant studio and transmitter. I was employed to design the transmitter plant and worked with Mr. Rice and his technical personnel to oversee construction of the plant.

In the mid 1980s, Mr. Rice purchased an AM and FM station in Terre Haute, Indiana. The stations were both "pioneer" stations in the region and both had fallen into a state of disrepair, both physically and operationally. I was employed by Mr. Rice to inspect the facilities prior to the sale and to devise a plan to bring the technical plants up to modern standards. I supervised the renovation of the transmitter plants and some minor work at the studio. I also participated in the design, planning and implementation of a new studio complex for the stations. This is a

modern studio and office plant which Mr. Rice constructed. I was again employed to design new transmitter facilities for Station WBOW when a construction permit was granted to change frequency to 640 kilohertz. Both stations have provided a great deal of public service for the Terre Haute area since Mr. Rice purchased the stations. This service has taken several forms from extensive local news coverage, responsive programming on the stations, running spot announcements for local organizations and sponsorship of many community events.

Mr. Rice has been a conscientious and progressive broadcaster in the period of time I've known him. He has always put forth his best efforts and the financial resources necessary to provide the best facilities and community service in the communities he serves. He has also provided guidance to many people in the broadcast industry, many of whom hold positions of high responsibility in the industry today.

In sum, Michael Rice and the licensee corporations, in my opinion, have always operated high quality broadcast stations and have always done their utmost to operate in full compliance with all Commission Rules and Policies. They have been honest, responsible broadcasters.

Respectfully submitted,



J. S. Sellmeyer, P. E.

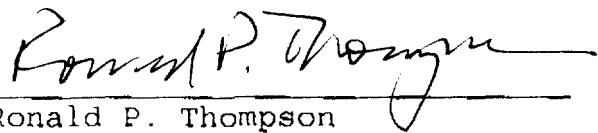
DECLARATION OF RONALD P. THOMPSON

I, Ronald P. Thompson, hereby declare:

1. I wrote the attached letter dated March 25, 1996 to Arthur J. Steinberg Administrative Law Judge, Federal Communications Commission.

2. The statements contained in the letter are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on March 25, 1996

  
Ronald P. Thompson

# A·H·M

ANDERSON, HALL, MARSH & COMPANY  
INSURANCE BROKERS

JOHN G. ANDERSON  
STEPHEN J. HALL  
STEPHEN M. MARSH

RONALD P. THOMPSON  
CYRIL J. FURRER, JR., CPCU  
LYLE F. GULLEY, JR.  
THOMAS M. GROTE  
FONDA A. HEREFORD

March 25, 1996

Honorable Arthur I. Steinberg  
Administrative Law Judge  
Federal Communication Commission  
2000 "L" Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C., 20554

Dear Judge Steinberg,

This letter is written in behalf of Michael Rice, and Contemporary Media Broadcasting Inc. I have brokered the property and casualty insurance for Mike and the stations since 1985.

During all of those years, I had little contact directly with Mike Rice pertaining to insurance matters, as this was delegated to others, at Contemporary Media Headquarters. All of my dealings with Michael Rice (at least once a year), were professional and businesslike. He was always fair and honest with me, and considerate of my advice. His concerns were to make sure values were accurate for replacement, in the event of loss.

Mike Rice recognized the importance of incorporating community involvement with his stations, to build up listeners and produce advertising revenue. His reputation in the radio broadcast business was excellent, according to everything I heard.

Sincerely,  
ANDERSON HALL MARSH

  
Ronald P. Thompson

DECLARATION OF WILLIAM E. WHITE

I, William E. White, hereby declare:

1. I wrote the attached letter dated March 20, 1996 to Arthur I. Steinberg, Administrative Law Judge, Federal Communications Commission.

2. The statements contained in the letter are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on March , 1996

  
William E. White



March 20,1996

The Honorable Arthur I. Steinberg  
Administrative Law Judge  
Federal Commerce Commission  
2000 L. Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Your Honor,

I have known Mike Rice for 30 years, I met him when he was an engineer in training at KXLW Radio under the leadership of Dick Miller.

Mike Rice was our Chief Engineer for 17 years, and he has done an excellent job.

Mike has created a lot of jobs and helped a lot of other people at his other Radio Stations in Indiana and Missouri.

Through his engineering ability he has helped other women and men to attain their goals. A person like him with his education and background & leadership ability can continue to help ladies and men complete their education, and help them with employment opportunities across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill White", is written over the typed name.

William E. White  
General Manager

Chairman of the Board

WEW/sw

**Bronco Broadcasting Co., Inc.**  
3713 Highway 94 North  
St. Charles, Missouri 63301  
(314) 946-6600  
Fax: (314) 946-6662